

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, and 16-21 are amended. Claims 23-27 are added. Claims 4 and 22 were previously canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-21, and 23-27 are pending in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks,
5 Applicant respectfully requests the application be allowed and forwarded on to issuance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,934 to Armstrong et al. (hereinafter “Armstrong”).

10 Claims 8, 15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armstrong in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,262,724 to Crow et al. (hereinafter “Crow”).

Applicant makes no representation that cited references are prior art. This response and any remarks or comments included herein are not intended to be, and are
15 not to be interpreted as, an admission that any cited references are prior art. Applicant reserves the right to dispose of any cited reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103, including but not limited to antedating any one or more of the cited references.

Interview Summary for Interview Conducted on January 7, 2009

20 Applicant’s attorney, Kevin West, wishes to thank Examiner Kyle Stork for the telephonic interview on January 7, 2009.

In the interest of expediting allowance of the application, and without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant's attorney proposed to amend the claims to further clarify features of the subject application. Applicant's attorney understood the Examiner to tentatively agree that the proposed amendments overcame the outstanding
5 rejections thus traversing the Office's rejections based on Armstrong and Crow. The Examiner indicated that he would need to update his search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in writing.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended herein as discussed during the interview. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance
10 and requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowability. If the Office's next anticipated
15 action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: January 30, 2009

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